Message Text

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ACTION EB-11

INFO OCT-01 NEA-10 ISO-00 AEC-11 AID-20 CEA-02 CIAE-00

CIEP-02 COME-00 DODE-00 FEA-02 FPC-01 H-03 INR-10

INT-08 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 OMB-01 PM-07 RSC-01 SAM-01

SCI-06 SPC-03 SS-20 STR-08 TRSE-00 DRC-01 /142 W

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P 281305Z FEB 74

FM AMEMBASSY TEHRAN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 5592

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E.O. 11652: N/A TAGS: ENRG, IR

SUBJECT: ENERGY: CRUDE OIL SALES (C-ER-4-57913)

REF: A. STATE 39149

- B. TEHRAN 8747
- C. TEHRAN 8775
- D. TEHRAN 1114
- 1. AS REPORTED REF C, NIOC WILL NOT REVEAL INFORMATION REQUESTED REF A. PRICES AT AQVTION, AS REPORTED REFS B AND C, WERE \$17.04 FOR IRANIAN LIGHT, \$16.04 FOR IRANIAN HEAVY, \$17.34 FOR RAKHSH/ROSTAM, \$16.20 FOR SASSAN, \$16 FOR DARIUS, AND \$9 FOR CYRUS. PRICE OF BAHREGANSAN/NOW RUZ CRUDE, WE UNDERSTAND, WAS \$14.
- 2. WE HAVE SCRAPED AROUND HURRIEDLY FOR RUMORS, BUT SO FAR HAVE ONLY BEEN ABLE TO GET FOLLOWING: (A) WE ARE TOLD ON GOOD AUTHORITY THAT ASHLAND, WITH CONSIDERABLE FINANCIAL PAIN, CONTINUES TO LIFT 80,000 B/D OF VARIOUS TYPES OF CRUDE (NO SPECIFIC DETAIL AVAILABLE); (B) IT IS RUMORED THAT IRANIANS HAVE INSISTED THAT BRITISH LIFT .5 MILLION TONS (ABOUT 120,000 B/D ON QUARTERLY BASIS) UNDER BILATERAL "LOOSE BARTER" DEAL DURING SECOND QUARTER, WHICH IF TRUE WOULD IMPLY THAT AUCTION BUYERS HAVE DEFAULTED ON THAT LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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AMOUT OF LIFTINGS; (C) MURPHY OIL REPORTEDLY BOUGHT AND

IS LIFTING 2,500 B/D OF SASSAN CRUDE; (D) PIW RECENTLY REPORTED NIOC CUT PRICE TO PAKISTAN OF 5,000 B/D OF IRANIAN LIGHT TO \$12.875; (E) REF D REPORTED CASE OF POTENTIAL DEFAULT, BUT WE DO NOT KNOW OUTCOME OR COMPANY INVOLVED.

3. WE WILL ATTEMPT TO GATHER MORE INFORMATION ON MARCH 2, BUT ARE NOT HOPEFUL THAT WE WILL BE ABLE TO GET MUCH. SUGGEST DEPARWMENT CONTACT U.S. OIL COMPANIES, WHICH MAY HAVE TURNED UP SOMETHING ON THIS. CONSORTIUM OWNED SERVICE COMPANY (OSCO) CARRIES OUT LOADING AT KHARG ISLAND, SO MEMBERS MAY HAVE ACCESS TO INFORMATION THAT OSCO WOULD NOT DARE TO GIVE US HERE. HELMS

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Message Attributes

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